

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for a fan motor comprising:

a base;

a cylindrically-shaped bearing housing integrally formed from the base and having a first opening located at a housing end opposite the base and a second opening located at a housing end adjacent to the base wherein said base and said cylindrically-shaped bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element;

a pair of bearings set in an interior of the bearing housing;

a rotational shaft supported by the pair of bearings;

a shield part integrally formed on the bearing housing at an end opposite the base, the shield part extending in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft and partially enclosing the first opening of the bearing housing;

a hub to which the rotational shaft is attached, having a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first opening and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part; and

a retainer cap set through the second opening of the bearing housing, the retainer cap having a cylindrical wall extending axially within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one of the pair of bearings,

wherein the shield part and the bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element.

2. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a stator fixed to an outer periphery of the bearing housing;
a rotor fixed to the rotational shaft and positioned to face the stator; and
an impeller fixed to the rotational shaft.
3. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a spacer, cylindrically shaped, set in the interior of the bearing housing between the pair
of bearings.
4. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the spacer further
comprises at least one oil groove.
5. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a coil spring interposed between the rotational shaft and the retainer cap.
6. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the retainer cap further
comprises:
at least one engagement claw for snapping onto the base.
7. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 5, further comprising:
a slide member interposed between the coil spring and the rotational shaft.
8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein an end of the rotational
shaft towards the base is spherically shaped.

9. (Cancelled) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:
a hub, to which the rotational shaft is attached, having a cylindrical part which is
inserted into an aperture in the shield part,
wherein a clearance gap between the cylindrical part and the shield part is in a
labyrinthine shape.

10. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the interior of the bearing
housing is shielded by the shield part and the retainer cap.

11. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the pair of bearings are
retained in the bearing housing by contact with the shield part and retainer cap.

12. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one bearing of the pair of
bearings is one of either a shielded ball bearing and an unshielded ball bearing.

13. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one bearing of the pair of
bearings is a sleeve bearing.

14. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the sleeve bearing further
comprises:
one of a chamfer or a stage formed on an edge of the sleeve bearing.

15. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
a magnet of the rotor having a central part offset from a central part of a core of the
stator,
wherein the rotor is attracted in a direction away from the base.

16. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising:
a magnet of the rotor having a central part offset from a central part of a core of the stator,
wherein the rotor is attracted in a direction towards the base.

17. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for a fan motor, comprising:
a base;
a bearing housing, having a hollow interior and a first and a second open end;
a shield part integrally formed on the first end of the bearing housing and radially extending towards the interior of the bearing housing;
a hub supporting a rotational shaft and having a cylindrical part extending into the bearing housing through the first end and forming a labyrinth-shaped gap with the shield part;
and
a retainer cap that fits into the second end of the bearing housing, the retainer cap having a cylindrical wall extending axially within an interior of the bearing housing and contacting and supporting at least one bearing set in the interior of the bearing housing,
wherein the base, the shield part and the bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element and wherein the interior of the bearing housing is thus shielded by the shield part with the labyrinth-shaped gap and the retainer cap.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 17,
wherein the at least one bearing is retained in the bearing housing by contact with the shield part and the retainer cap.

19. (Cancelled) The apparatus according to claim 17, further comprising:
a base, from which the bearing housing is integrally formed.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising:
the rotational shaft, supported by the at least one bearing;
a stator fixed to the an outer periphery of the bearing housing;
a rotor fixed to the rotational shaft and positioned to face the stator; and
an impeller fixed to the rotational shaft.